A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS January 4, 2016

A regular meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commissioners Boardroom, also known as Multi-Purpose Room 342, of the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, North Carolina on the 4th day of January, 2016 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: C.B. McKinnon, Chairman; Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Gary Westmoreland, member; and Roy Dickey, member. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; Candy Roberts Anderson, County Finance Director; and, R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Assistant Clerk to the Board.

Media present were the Cherokee Scout and Local TV4. DVD copies of commission meetings may be purchased at Local TV4.

The Chairman read the boards adopted ethics statement.

The invocation was given by Andy Williams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to remove Item "e" (Airport Hangar Leases) under New Business, from the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. The county attorney is still working with FAA to develop leases that are in accordance with FAA Guidelines.

Agenda Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.

Public Forum: No one spoke in public forum.

Finance and Budget:

• The finance director gave a financial report on the 2015 County Fair. A Copy of the report is available in the county finance office. Commissioner Stiles said that he felt like the Mountain Folk Center budgeted improvements should be figured in with the overall cost

of the fair, since without the fair, the improvements would not have been budgeted. He said the Saddle Club grant should not play into the fair costs, since it was not part of the fair project. Mrs. Anderson said that it [Saddle Grant] affects the overall County Fair financial statement. Commissioner McKinnon said that there was numerous improvements made to the Mountain Folk Center that will serve it beyond the County Fair. He said that there was value donated. Commissioner Eichenbaum read a prepared County Fair assessment statement; attached hereto. He then read the following statement and Motion concerning a 2016 County Fair:

"On behalf of the citizens of Cherokee County, The Commission expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the committee members, volunteers, participants, sponsors, and donors who made the Cherokee County Fair possible. The Commission agrees to form as of tonight a Cherokee County Fair Committee. To ensure continuity of planning, participation in this year's committee will be offered to those who planned the 2015 event to take advantage of their first-hand experience. The specific task of the committee will be to create a definite plan and budget for the 2016 Fair within 90 days of tonight's meeting. Upon receipt of the proposed plan and budget, the commission will decide how to proceed".

The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Commissioner Eichenbaum said that at this time, the board isn't committing any funds, until the fair committee comes before the board with a proposed budget. Commissioner Stiles asked that with the Motion there be a caveat added that would require the committee to present a budget that has no county funds involved. He said that without a big name act that the fair should be self-sustaining, so that tax dollars are not subsidizing it. Commissioner Eichenbaum said that he wouldn't limit the committee to that, that the committee should present a budget for what they think they can do, and that they would again solicit donations. He said that with the improvements that were made at the Mountain Folk Center, that the county would not have to spend as much for the 2016 fair, and he thinks it could be profitable. The county manager gave a comparison of what the fair budget would have been without a big-name act. Commissioner McKinnon added that when you adjust for the improvements that were made, that the fair can be self-sustaining. Motion passed.

- The finance director shared the November financial report for the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center. The facility was showing -\$946.39. She said that the Hiwassee Valley Recreation Foundation was sending a payment to the county in the amount of \$1,289.76 for the November propane costs. This will then give the facility a positive balance of \$343.37.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a proposal from McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture for restoration of the courthouse cupola. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to accept a \$25,000 WNC Communities Grant for the Mickens Branch Dispersed Recreation Area. The board initially approved the project on March 2, 2015. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to accept a \$1,000 grant from

- Duke Energy to be used toward the development of the county's economic development website. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision
 for request of designated school sales tax for multiple school projects. Motion seconded by
 Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision to replace the HVAC unit at the Cherokee County Annex. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Preston Mashburn came before the board to request use of the Mountain Folk Center arena for a rodeo, and use of the livestock panels for a petting zoo. Mr. Mashburn said in his proposal that he would give 25% of the profit to the county and put the remaining 75% toward next year's rodeo. The board supported the proposal, and told Mr. Mashburn that since he was taking all of the risk, that he could give 10%, instead of 25%. Mr. Mashburn said that he would also submit a copy of the "Special Event Insurance" policy to the county, a week prior to the rodeo. A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- As required by the Department of Public Instruction, John Higdon, facilities director for Cherokee County Schools presented the 2015-2016 Facility Needs Survey to the Board of Commissioner's for review. The Board of Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the survey.
- Ed Burchins, Andrews Town Manager and Andrews Mayor Nancy Curtis came before the board to request the county provide assistance with financing the Town of Andrews Pool Repair Project at 50%, with the project not to exceed \$500,000. The Board agreed to set a worksession with the Town of Andrews to discuss the project in greater detail.
- Chad McNabb, fire chief for Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department, came before the
 board to give a report from the Fire/Rescue Workgroup. The report included a proposal for
 combined fire and rescue services for Cherokee County. Commissioner McKinnon
 suggested a worksession between the board of commissioners and the workgroup. A
 Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to schedule a future worksession. Motion
 seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the NCVTS Refunds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the tax refund report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the request for tax releases for December 2nd through December 15th, and December 16th through December 29th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- Eddie Allen, Cherokee County tax assessor, came before the board to request a budget variance for Bear Paw for 2014. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the variance request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Chairman/Commissioner Items:

The county manager gave an update on the Hanging Dog Campground.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A COMMISSION MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15, 2016.